(b) if so, the details thereof and the number with location thereof which are likely to start functioning from the next financial year, 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has approved in Principle of opening of one more dispensary each at Noida and Gurgaon.

(b) The new dispensaries will be opened at Sector 56 Gurgaon and Sector 82 Noida subject to availability of funds and manpower.

Federal authority for drug licences

57. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of rampant spread of spurious medicines in the country, Government are planning to set up a federal authority to issue drug licences to drug manufacturing companies;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are planning to set up a Central Drug Authority; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) A bill to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for setting up of Central Drug Authority of India to upgrade National Regulatory System for drugs and cosmetics and providing technical vision and policy direction in respect of quality of drugs marketed in the country. The authority would have ten main divisions to discharge functions as envisaged under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. The centralization of grant of manufacturing licenses is proposed to be done in a phased manner. However, the grant of licences for sale of drugs, inspection of sale premises and monitoring the movement of spurious and sub-standard drugs and investigations of such cases for taking action under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 would be looked after by the State licensing authorities.

Implementation of Valiathan Committee report

58. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that fresh controversy has started between the President, AIIMS Institute Body and the Director of the Institute, each one instituting his own inquiry against a doctor;

(b) whether Government are also aware that this is happening due to absence of clear rules and regulations where guidelines for every functionary could have been drafted properly; and

(c) whether Government have examined the Valiathan Committee report and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences,